Middleton in the Twentieth Century

Presented by the
Middleton Historical Society
1998

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Middleton in the Twentieth Century

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Credits:
1904 Postcard "*Canoeing on the Ipswich*",
1920's Postcard "*Fern-Croft Inn Rebuilt*"
and
Old Photos-Middleton Historical Society

1950's Photo of Essex County Tuberculosis Sanatorium-
Barbara Sanborn

Present Day Photos-Rita M. Kelley, (6) Robert W. Fox

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Lura Woodside Watkins, in 1970, wrote "Middleton, a Cultural History". This book has been the foundation stone for later arrivals in Middleton to learn the early history of our charming town.

We learned how Middleton was formed from adjoining towns, was incorporated in 1728 and how it grew in population and diversity into the early years of this century.

Our children and townspeople have a curiosity to know the pattern of growth in the years of the twentieth century in more detail.

This booklet is intended to give a picture of Middleton as we know it nearing the end of the twentieth century.

We are most appreciative of the cooperation of the townspeople of Middleton and those people who work here.

The information contained herein is accurate to the best of our ability.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF MIDDLETON

Before Middleton became a town it was always a farming community, although there were attempts made to establish industries. On Mill Street there was an ironworks, or bloomery, begun in the 1700's or before, which was run for thirty years. In the 1800's there was a paper mill beside the Ipswich about where Bostik is now. During this time there were many small shoe shops in yards where families made shoes. These little shops were a way for women to earn some money on their own.

Middleton became a town in 1728 when it was formed from parts of Salem Village (now Danvers), Topsfield, Boxford and Andover. It was a hardship for the people in that area now called Middleton to travel to church in those towns. Since there was sufficient land to form a separate town, the Province of Massachusetts Bay gave permission to form a new parish, provided the new town constructed a suitable place of worship and engaged a minister and a schoolmaster.

On July 9, 1728 Middleton held its first town meeting at the home of Dr. Daniel Felch (a short distance from the Congregational Church) and Jonathan Fuller presented the charter to the town. The church was already under construction and on November 6, 1729, Rev. Andrew Peters, a Harvard graduate, was ordained as the first minister.

Before it was called Middleton, the area was called Will's Hill after a lone old Indian who lived on the great hill overlooking Middleton Pond. William Nichols was the first settler in 1651. In 1659 Bray Wilkins with his six sons and John Gingell settled near Middleton Pond on Will's Hill. In 1663 Thomas Fuller, a blacksmith from Woburn, built a sawmill on the brook which ran from the Pond. Other early settlers were the Putnams, Hobbs, Elliots, Townes, and Peabodys. Even before these first settlers arrived, the Great Oak on Peabody Street was growing on what was later known as the Curtis Farm. It is thought to be over 400 years old and is a national landmark.

During the witchcraft trials in 1691 John Willard, who lived on Peabody Street, was hanged as a witch. The Hobbs family of Locust Street (father, mother and daughter) were tried as witches but were not executed.

One of the earliest social libraries in the state was founded here in 1772. Many of the books from this first library are in a special collection housed in the Flint Public Library. Our present Flint Library was built in 1891 with $10,000 bequest left to the town by Charles L. Flint for that very purpose.

The earliest schools in the town were in private homes. Later the town built four one-room schoolhouses in different parts of town, north, south, east, west. This system prevailed until 1860 when the Centre School was built. This building, much enlarged, is still standing and now holds the Town Offices. The

town now has two elementary schools. Older students attend Masconomet.

Middleton is halfway between Andover and Salem, an all-day trip in the days before automobiles. The Estey Tavern, built in 1753, was used as a stopover by travelers and drovers alike. The drovers pastured their sheep and cows nearby. Until 1892 the Estey Tavern was run, off and on, by various persons.

In the early 1900's Middleton was a popular summer resort, with summer cottages overlooking the Pond and cabins all along the Ipswich. Electric cars and steam railroad brought visitors from cities such as Boston, Salem and Lynn.

Middleton has been represented in all wars beginning with King Phillip's War in 1675. In the Battles of Lexington and Concord, men from Middleton walked or rode horseback crosscountry to fight the retreating British. In front of the Flint Public Library are monuments listing those who have served their country and every Memorial Day there is a ceremony to honor them.

Middleton has grown slowly and steadily through the years. In 1840 there were 640 residents. In 1975 there were 4200. In 1998 it is a residential community with a population of over 6000.

FIRST TOWN MEETING
UNDER A GIANT OAK NEAR THIS SPOT ON JULY 9 1728 MIDDLETON HELD ITS FIRST TOWN MEETING AND RECEIVED ITS CHARTER FROM THE PROVINCE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY
Courtesy of
Town Meeting Apartments
76 Maple Street

First Town Meeting Site Sign

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Middleton did not grow fast even after World War II. Neighboring towns such as North Reading saw a lot of swift growth in those years after the War. Middleton stayed a small town, almost forgotten and passed by. The population grew slowly. Lots of summer camps and cottages were converted into permanent homes.

The first really noticeable changes were the housing developments. First, in the 50's, were the ranch-type homes built in what is called "The Meadows". This development is located off Boston Street. Then in the 60's the four-bedroom Garrison-type larger house appeared. These were located off Route 114 in an area which is known as Brigadoon. Growth slowed down a little during the 70's. By 1975 there were 4200 residents.

Then in the 1980's Middleton seemed to be noticed and rediscovered. New housing starts in the form of developments sprang up throughout the town. This residential growth contributed to a corresponding increase in our town's population. The addition of twenty subdivisions since 1988 totaling over 314 house lots tell the tale.

In the 70's we had a population increase of 3.2%. In the 80's the percentage increase in population rose to 17.7%. The rate of growth in the population has averaged 3.86% yearly since 1990 to 6249 in 1997. This increase represents a 27% increase in only seven years. Middleton's population in 1910 was 1129. By 1950 records show growth to 2916. Less than 2000 in forty years. Then came the sale of farmland, and the influx of city people who now felt they could move out to the rural joys of the suburbs.

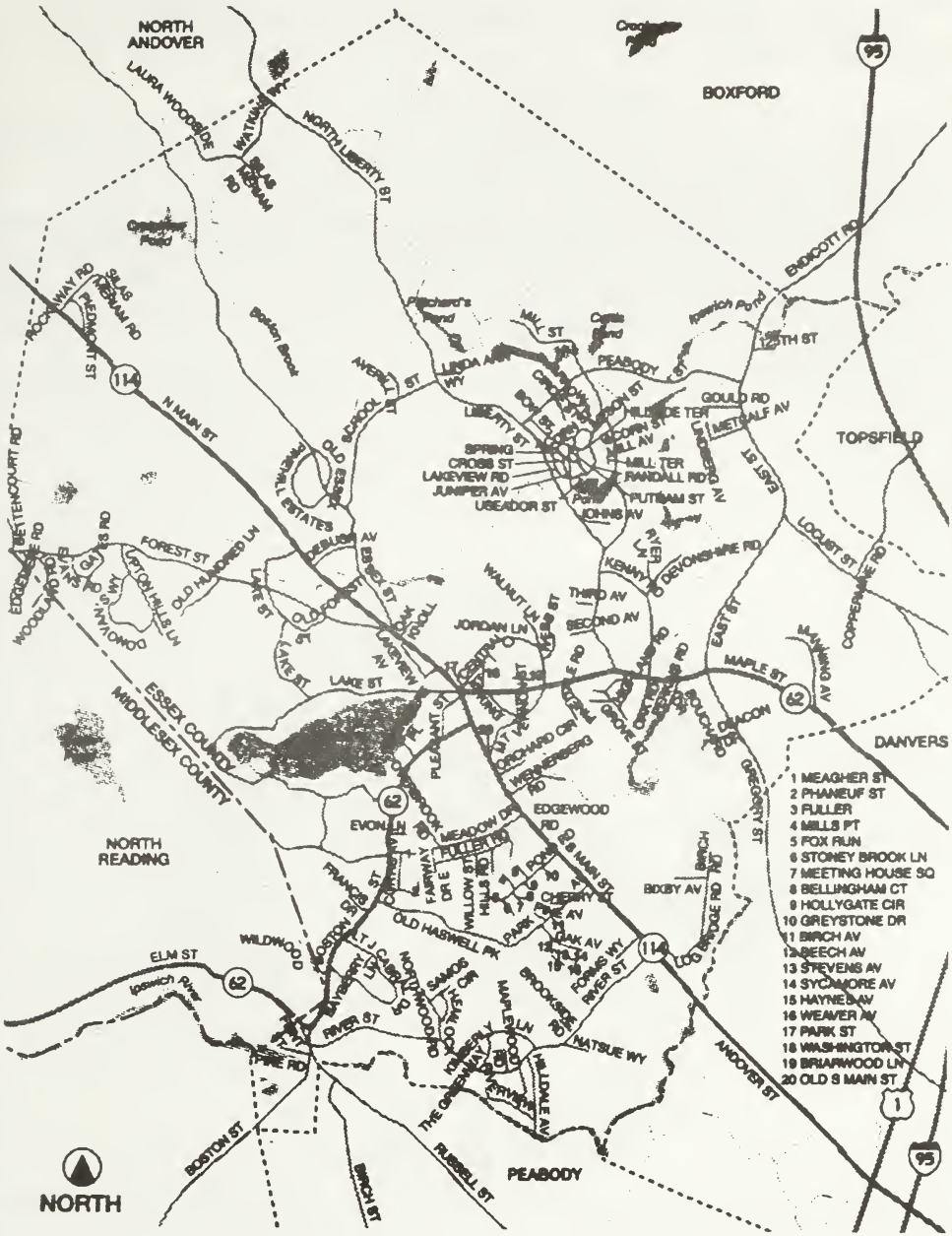
Population increases in the following decades:

1950-1960	802 people
1960-1970	336 people
1970-1980	91 people
1981-1990	786 people
1990-1997	1328 people

The center of Town has seen a lot of change with the restored Estey Tavern as the focal point. Further down Main Street there is now a busy shopping mall where the old Drive-In Theater once stood.

Obviously, with this influx of new people and houses, more services are required. Our infrastructure is stressed and school populations continue to explode. The completion and opening of the Essex County Correctional Facility puts additional demands on the water supply. The Middleton Public Works, Police and Fire Departments are all heavily burdened. Middleton tries hard to maintain its small town charm and character. The effort has been made to avoid the uncontrolled mushrooming growth that too often takes place.

MAP OF MIDDLETON



Map compliments of Bell Atlantic

TOWN SEAL

In 1900 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ordered each town in the Commonwealth to adopt a seal. Our town seal first appeared on the 1901 Town Report.

It shows a lit oil lamp shining on three volumes which rest against a globe. The motto "Knowledge is Power" is written across the seal; the saying taken from an essay written by Francis Bacon in 1597 called "Meditationes Sacrae".

Present day interpretation of the symbolism portrayed in the seal is that the lamp signifies enlightenment leading to the discoveries of the world through books.

Books open the world beyond to everyone; therefore, "Knowledge is Power". The seal was chosen from a catalogue of stock designs and was purchased from F.E. Moynihan for $35.75.

In 1971 a handsome replica was painted by Geraldine Shipley and hangs in Memorial Hall.

TOWN CHARTER

On May 20, 1974 the town of Middleton adopted the Town Charter as proposed by a committee of six men and one woman under the leadership of Committee Chairman R. Lionel Barrows.

Based on an anticipated future population explosion and due to encroaching on the part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts into the workings of local government, the charter is to be "*a shield or umbrella and help defend the continuance of our own town rules and regulations under which we have chosen to live*".

It is the first complete document that expresses fully, clearly and openly the powers and limitations of our Town Government and was therefore the most important issue voters had been asked to vote on in many years.

Briefly stated, the most significant points are:

a. The open form of Town Meeting is retained.

b. The traditional practice of electing many of our Town Officers is for the most part retained.

c. It establishes the position of Town Administrator, who will be appointed by the Selectmen and responsible for the day-to-day administration of Town affairs.

d. It provides for an increase in the number of Selectmen to be elected.

e. It establishes and defines clearly a Department of Public Works.

f. Recall of elected officials is provided for.

g. A Capital Improvement Program is outlined.

h. Provisions are made for a periodic review and upgrading of Town By-Laws.

INFRASTRUCTURE

MIDDLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Middleton Fire Department grew gradually from a group of volunteers who fought forest fires under the Warden of the Forest Fire Department and house fires under the Fire Chief of the House Fire Department.

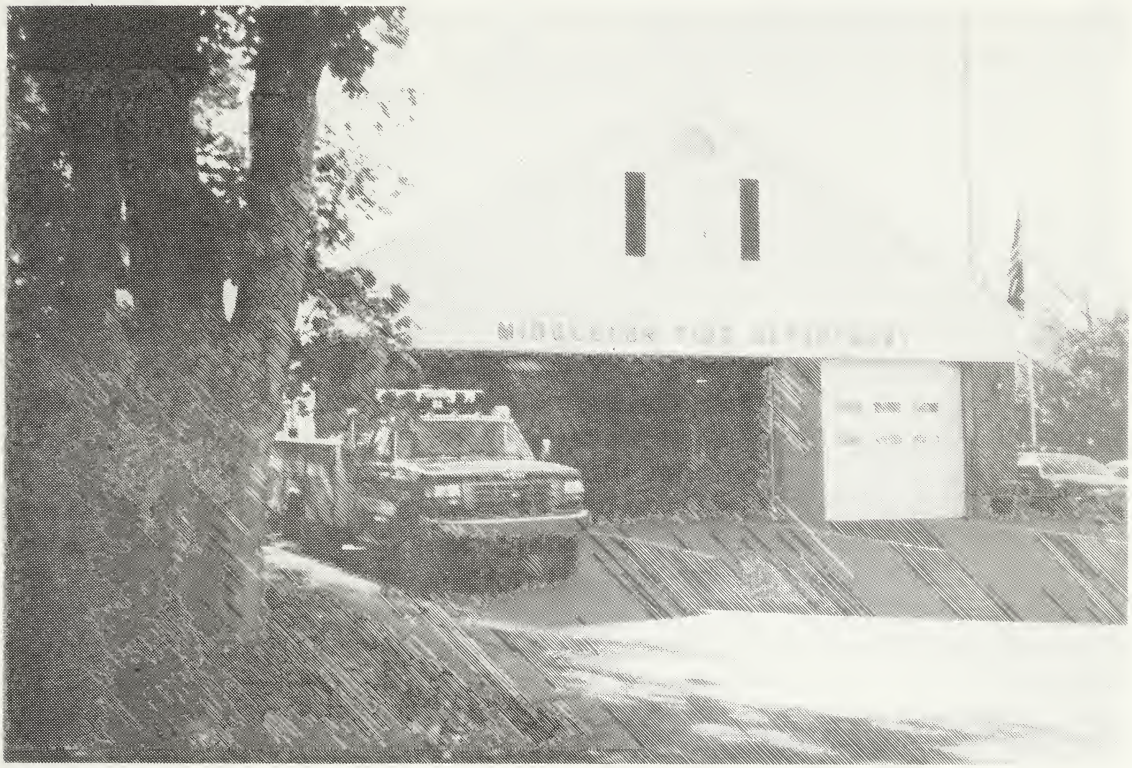
In 1910 the town voted to pay firemen 25 cents an hour, while they were on duty, and rented wagons and teams of horses from townspeople when needed. The town built a new hose house in 1914 and voted in 1917 to install water and electric lights in it.

In 1925 an electric fire alarm was installed, and in 1927 the town purchased it's first fire truck. In 1930 the fire house was heated. In 1931 the Middleton Fire Department was finally organized with sixteen men, including a Chief, a Deputy Chief and four Lieutenants.

In 1932 the town purchased a new pumper and booster truck, which the Middleton Firefighter Association still cares for along with its first pumper, named "Fitzhenry Guptill". In the late 1940's a large new combination tank was purchased and in 1954 the town built the present Fire and Highway Department building on Lake Street.

In 1964 Chief Harold Purdy was the first fireman to be hired full time. In 1971 six firemen attended the Emergency Medical Technicians Training Program at Lynn Union Hospital and the town placed the town ambulance at the Fire Station under the direction of the Fire Chief. In the 1990's seven paramedics trained in Advanced Life Support have been added to the force.

The Fire Department now has a budget of over $500,000 a year and eight full time members including a Chief, three Lieutenants, two Firefighters, one Dispatcher and twenty-one Firefighters on call.



Middleton Fire Dept.

MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1960 the residents of the town of Middleton voted for a three year position for Constable. At the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen following his election, the Selectmen would vote to appoint the Constable to the position of Chief of Police. The position of Chief of Police would be held until the next vote. This meant he could be voted out of office in three years. Sometime later the town voted to give the Chief authority to hire, fire and promote.

Later, at a Town Meeting the residents voted to rescind this bill, and gave the Board of Selectmen the title of Police Commissioners. The Police Commissioners would do the hiring, firing, and promoting of Police Department personnel. Earliest police records indicate a Simon Estey was Constable in Middleton from 1860 to 1863. The first Police Chief was also the Fire Chief. He was appointed by the Selectmen in 1925.

In 1940 the first Police Department location was an office in the home of Chief James Wentworth at 33 Maple Street. In 1973 the Department was relocated to Memorial Hall. In 1983 a brick building was purchased for one dollar from the town of Danvers and in the fall of that year was physically moved to Middleton. This building was moved and renovated suitably for a police station within a $60,000 budget thanks to many generous volunteers donating time, talent and goods.

There have been four Police Chiefs since 1949. James Wentworth served as Police Chief from 1949 to 1971, Edward Richardson from 1972 to 1988, Robert T. Peachey, Sr. from 1985 to 1991 and Paul F. Armitage has been serving as Police Chief from 1997 to present.

The police force today consists of one Chief and ten full-time officers with ten reserve officers. These officers must be responsible for the safety and protection of all citizens of Middleton. Problem areas in today's world include motor vehicle infractions, firearms responsibility, officer training, juvenile problems, drug education, domestic violence and vehicle safety, such as use of seat belts and bicycle helmets.

Middleton Police Department

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Town of Middleton established the Public Works Department back in 1975. The Public Works Department replaced the office of Highway Surveyor. The functions and responsibility of the Public Works Department have grown as the town has.

The Public Works Department is currently responsible for all repairs and improvements to town roads, town buildings, recreational facilities, water mains, cemetery, transfer station and the town's infrastructure. The Public Works Department also operates the Middleton Transfer Station and performs all interments at Oakdale Cemetery.

The Public Works Department is responsible for snow and ice removal operations in the winter. The Department operates with nine full-time employees, including the Superintendent.

The new Transfer Station was constructed on approximately 2.9 acres of the landfill property. It is located on the southern portion atop a clay filled area. The Transfer Station was constructed at a cost of $656,000. Construction began in August of 1995. The Transfer Station was officially opened for use on November 9, 1996.

This facility now processes all of Middleton's residential trash and recyclables. Last year the town disposed of 1700 tons of trash and recycled over 39 tons of glass, 205 tons of paper, 6 tons of plastic, 500 tires, 120 tons of scrap metal, 220 tons of wood debris and 1000 gallons of used motor oil.

This facility also has a "Swap Shop" which allows anyone to take or leave items that are still of some use or value. There is also a used clothing drop off box to donate used clothing.

MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

The Middleton Municipal Light Department was organized on August 15, 1918 from the Middleton Electric Company. The State would authorize communities to form a Light Department or choose to receive power from New England Power.

Middleton opted to go on line and form their own Light Department. The Legislature authorized the Light Department to be a separate department within the town having the Selectmen appoint a Board to manage their own operation and funding.

We do buy power from New England Power and are charged a certain rate per volume. Our consumption went up and we received a considerable peaking charge

which required us to build new substations.

When the Massachusetts Institute of Technology came on line it doubled the town's use of electricity. They agreed to confine accelerator use between certain periods of dark to dawn, but later found they couldn't contain volume. They now have a separate substation.

Headquarters for the Light Department moved into Memorial Hall in 1937 when it was converted from the old Centre School. However, since 1986 they have an attractive brick building on Route 114 North.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT - DANVERS D.P.W.

The Middleton water supply operates under a long lease to the Town of Danvers, Department of Public Works. In 1924 the eastern outlet of Middleton Pond was dammed, raising the water three and a half feet, and an electric pump in a new intake house was installed to supply water to the town.

During the Great Depression, the WPA planted evergreens around the pond to improve the watershed. In the 1930's chlorination was added to the system, and a second electric pump replaced the old steam ones. In 1949 new construction was started on a dam and pumping station on Emerson Brook by North Main Street. In 1951 fluoridation was added to reduce tooth decay.

Because of recurrent droughts, in 1961 an additional supply well was built on South Main Street by the Ipswich River. In 1977 a new treatment plant was built at Middleton Pond to ensure a better water supply. (leased by Danvers)

MIDDLETON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Middleton Housing Authority was incorporated in 1965 and maintains its office at Orchard Circle. It is authorized by, and operates under, the provisions of Chapter 121B of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, which is known as the Housing and Urban Renewal Law. The authority is managed, controlled and governed by four elected members and one State appointed member. All members' terms are set at five years. The members employ an Executive Director to administer the business of the Housing Authority.

The primary role that the authority offers in Middleton is to provide low income housing. The authority owns 8 units of Chapter 705-1 three bedroom housing for families and 4 units of Chapter 750-1 two bedroom housing for

families. These units are located at Memorial Drive and are known as the Jack Pellicelli Memorial Family Housing. Our elderly/disabled Chapter 667-1 housing is located at Orchard Circle and consists of 51 one bedroom conventional units and three one bedroom barrier-free (wheel chair accessible) units. Tenants are chosen from a waiting list of eligible applicants. A preference is given to applicants that currently live or work in the Town of Middleton. Rent is charged as a percentage of a tenants net income.

Additionally, there are provisions which allow the Middleton Housing Authority to engage in the clearance of substandard, decadent or blighted open areas; to participate in a land assembly and redevelopment project, including the preservation, restoration or relocation of historical buildings; to relieve congestion of the population and to identify the existence of substandard, decadent or blighted open areas, including unsanitary or unsafe inhabited dwellings.

Finally, Oak Knoll complex is a federally sponsored housing complex. Oak Knoll has forty-eight units. It was officially opened in 1981.

BOARD OF TRADE

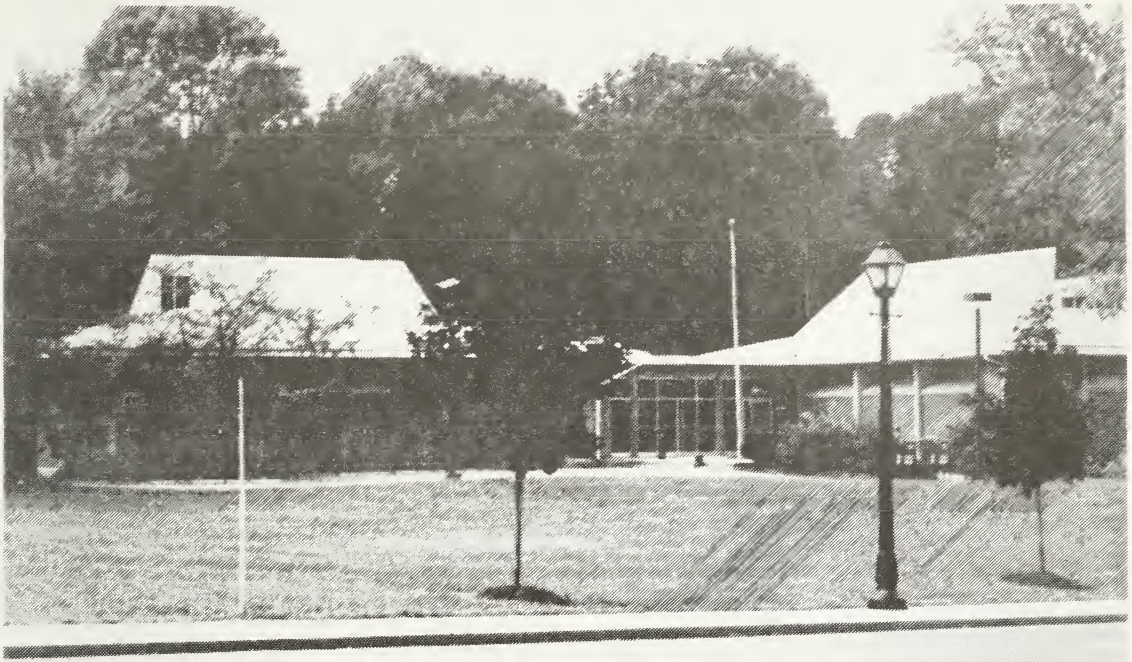
The Middleton Board of Trade is an organization of more than 60 local residents formed to advance the commercial, industrial, and civic interests of the town. It holds monthly meetings from September through June. The Board of Trade supports community programs like BESTBET (Building Excellent Schools Through Business Education Teamwork). The program is based on the premise that better educated students ultimately become better employees.

Another program is holiday lighting and decoration in the downtown section of Middleton. The Sign Committee has donated three carved wooden "Welcome to Middleton" signs as well as attractive landscaping. For Seniors they sponsor the January Thaw, a mid-winter celebration with dining and dancing.

Golf tournaments are held annually to raise funds for their charitable endeavors such as scholarships. They are also involved in sponsoring the annual Pumpkin Festival.

MIDDLETON POST OFFICE 01949

The business of the U.S. Post Office has been longstanding. Starting before 1839, even before Col. Batchelder's accounts, the Post Office business was conducted out of the Estey Tavern in Middleton Square.



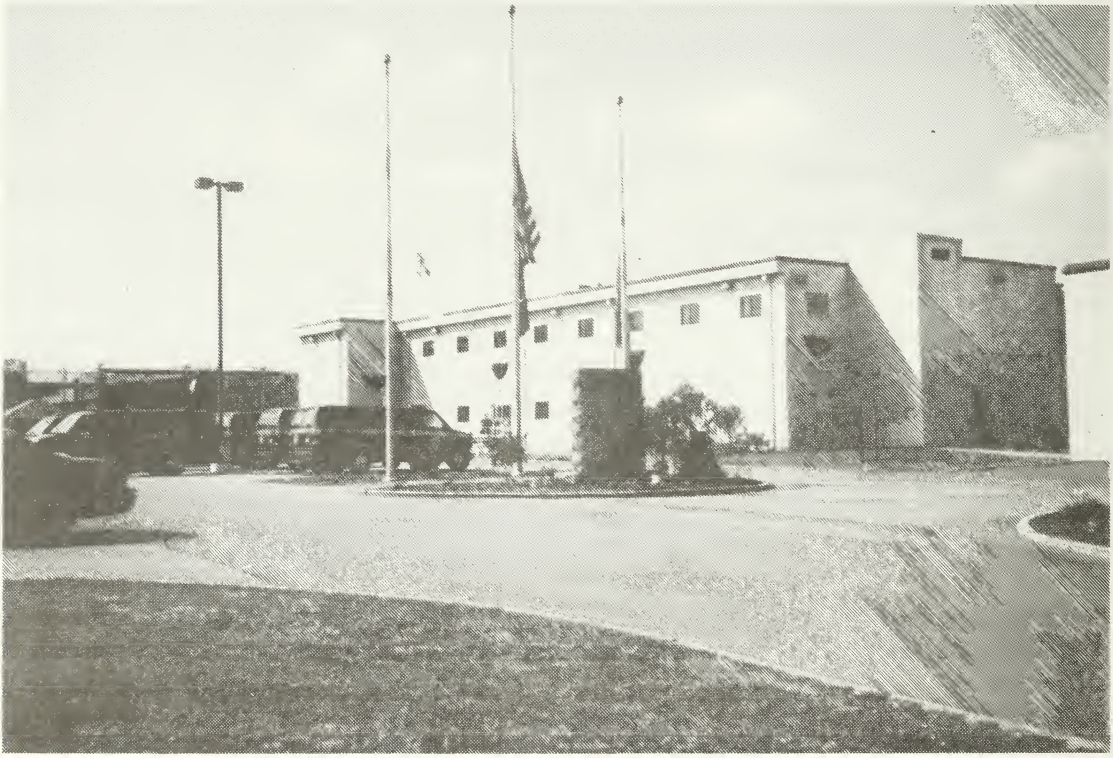
U.S. Post Office

In 1968 the Post Office business was moved to a new building on South Main Street. It originally shared the building with the Arlington Trust Company, now Fleet Bank. In 1996 major renovations were made to the building. The resulting unadorned cement building has an open, efficient looking appearance.

The Postmaster has 13 employees. These postal employees provide services to 930 P.O. boxes as well as over 2000 residential customers. There are five delivery routes in Middleton.

ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY & SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS

The Essex County Correctional Facility and Sheriff's Headquarters, ECCF, is a state-of-the-art detention facility that consists of ten buildings. Built for $53 million the facility was designed to hold 750 inmates on 22 acres of land. The land constituted the old Essex County Farm. In 1991 the County Jails in Salem and Lawrence were closed and their inmates were moved into the new facility. Due to overcrowding, the daily population of this new facility consistently exceeds 1000 men.



Essex County Correctional Facility

BUSINESS OLD AND NEW

RICHARDSON FARMS

In 1636-1638 three Richardson brothers came over from England: Thomas (b.1608, England), Izakal and Samuel. They landed at Charlestown. Three years later they and four others were sent to build a parish in Woburn.

Around 1690 David Richardson (b.1678-9, Woburn) moved to Middleton around what is now Fuller Pond Village, The Richardson Cemetery is still there. His first son Solomon was born in 1700, then came Steven (b.1750) former Town Treasurer, who built the yellow house that once stood on a knoll above Everett Pattern Works. Jeremiah (b.1794) was next, living in what was then known as Bayley-Bradstreet house, later known as the C.K. Masse property on Maple Street.

Then came Benjamin P. Richardson (b.1829, attended Middlebury College) who bought the land across from Middleton Par 3 from the Fullers in 1855. The farm slowly expanded from a subsistence farm until Hazen K. (b.1861, attended Harvard) took over. He expanded the vegetables and added chickens along with a number of cows. By the 1910's cows had taken over and the farm grew to a herd of over 1000 head. Many barns graced the field across from the golf course, the last barn being a 375 cow, wooden barn. The barn was taken down in the late 1950's.

In 1952 Benjamin K. (b.1895, attended Yale) and Hazen M (b.1867) built a dairy at 156 South Main Street (present location) to bottle their milk and maybe sell a little ice cream. The cows came down the street to a new barn in 1957. The ice cream proved to be quite popular and the building and the ice cream business has been growing ever since.

Today the company distributes ice cream in eastern New England. Its herd consists of 300 cows pastured throughout Middleton. The company is run by Paul F. Richardson(b.1947, attended Boston College) and William Daniels (b.1937, attended Boston University).

Richardson Farms

FERNCROFT INN

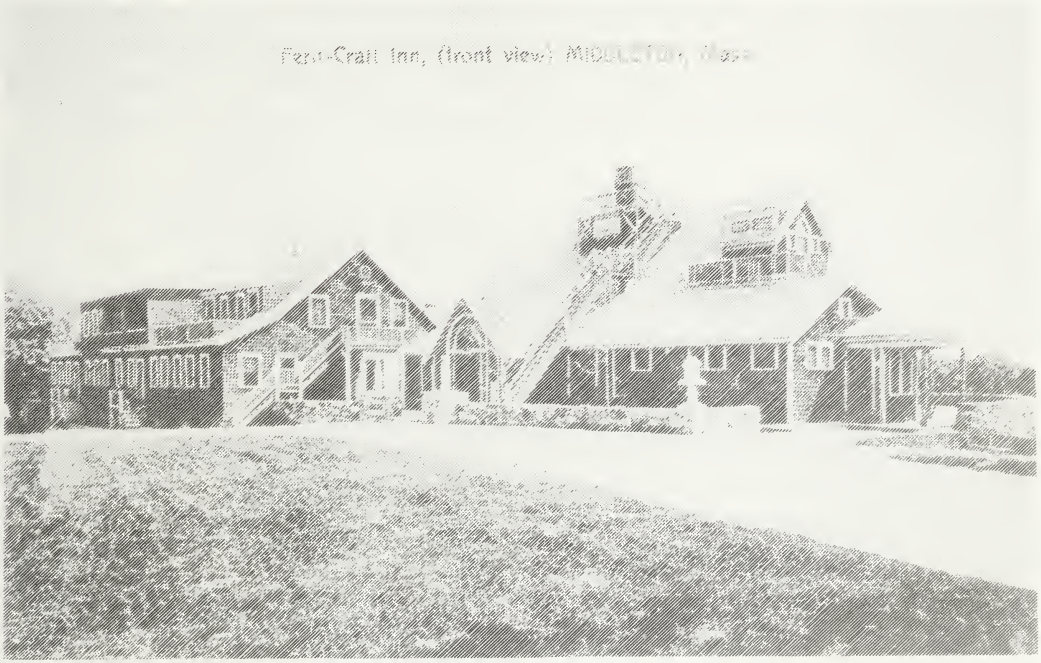
On top of the hill in Middleton where the Sheraton Ferncroft now stands, there once stood a mansion built in 1692 by John Nichols on land given to him by his father, William Nichols. This land at the time was in Topsfield. It became part of Middleton in 1728 when the town was formed.

The Nichols family members lived on the Nichols Homestead until 1777. The house that John Nichols had built remained unchanged until 1892 when its new

owners added a broad piazza across the front and did extensive landscaping. The new owners opened it to the public as a restaurant named Ferncroft Inn. The mansion was destroyed by fire on January 17, 1911.

Between 1911 and the 1920's only a stone post, a row of maple trees and a circular drive remained of the original Inn. The Inn was rebuilt and in the 1920's it was a fashionable drinking and gambling establishment, frequently visited by well-known Boston politicians. For a time it was owned by Harry P. Mansfield, the man who gave Middleton money to be used by the town to pay for a yearly picnic for the town's children.

In the 1970's the Ferncroft Golf Course was put in where there previously had been a hayfield. Later the two tall buildings were erected which now stand at the top of that hill overlooking Route 1, partly in Danvers and partly in Middleton; one building is a conference center and hotel and one is a complex of condominiums.



Ferncroft-Inn

ICE CUTTING

Ice cutting in Middleton in the early half of this century was carried on in at least four locations. Carl Jones told how his family in the first decade had their farm at the site of the present Sheraton Ferncroft on Locust Street. They had a clean, clear pond which supplied them with drinking water in the summer. In the winter the pond was dammed. The ice was cut into blocks and sent up a conveyor-type belt to the barn, where it was packed in sawdust. The ice was later delivered to the original Ferncroft Inn on Locust Street at a rate of about one and one-half to two tons a week all summer. When the ice arrived at Ferncroft it was lowered down into a mammoth ice box about twenty feet deep.

Across town the Curriers of Forest Street had icehouses both on Middleton Pond and on Forest Street. They supplied ice locally even after World War II.

The Richardson Farms need for ice was supplied by an operation on Mill Pond. They used about ten Men and two horses for this work. They had an ice plow and special tools to score the ice six inches deep. First they cut a little canal to float the blocks to the dam. Then they cut the two-foot thick ice into lengths of about three feet by four feet long. The wagons would back up to the dam and the ice would be loaded into them, then brought to the barns to be stacked in sawdust. They estimated 500 tons of ice were needed to keep them through 'til next season.

J. H. GREGORY SEED FARM

Gregory Street is so named after J. H. Gregory, the man who started the Gregory Seed Farm there. He started in Marblehead and expanded in Middleton. He developed a Hubbard Squash and a special carrot, and his seed catalog went around the world. Many Middleton people were in his employ and the houses on Gregory Street were mainly built for the workers. The house on the right of Memorial Hall was built for his son who managed the Middleton seed farm. This industry is believed to have been started around the turn of the century and ran about thirty years.

BOSTIK

Bostik was founded as the Boston Blacking Company in 1892 at Chelsea, Massachusetts. The company manufactured polishes and waxes for the footwear industry. It moved to Middleton in 1928 and in 1929 was purchased by the United Shoe Machinery Corporation, fondly called "The Shoe" because it manufactured shoe machinery. Many local people were employed by the larger manufacturing plant and its subsidiary. In the 1950's it was renamed the B.B. Chemical Company and supplied adhesives to many industries. In the 1970's the company was renamed Bostik and became part of the Emhart Corporation's Fastening System Division when Emhart bought The Shoe in 1975. Emhart was sold to Black & Decker in 1989, and in 1990 Orkem bought Bostik. Upon the restructuring of the French Chemical Industry, Bostik became a subsidiary of Total. Bostik now is the world's 5th largest adhesive and sealants manufacturer with production facilities in ten countries and sales operations in 23 additional nations.

Bostik

BATES LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER

The Bates Linear Accelerator Center on Maple Street is a teaching laboratory for Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduate students in nuclear physics. In 1964 MIT saw the need to build a teaching laboratory. Congressman William H. Bates was the Chairman of the U.S. Congress's Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and guided the government's selection and approval of the Middleton site. Construction began in 1967 and the first building was occupied in 1969.

The first two students received their PhDs in 1977. The Center was involved in the calibration of the Energetic Gamma Ray Experimental Telescope (EGRET) which NASA launched in 1991 and is part of the Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO) which is still orbiting in space gathering data on the cosmos.

Because of its electrical needs, the Center used to be limited to operations between 6 pm and 6 am. This caused Middleton to build a new electric substation. (See related information Municipal Light Department)

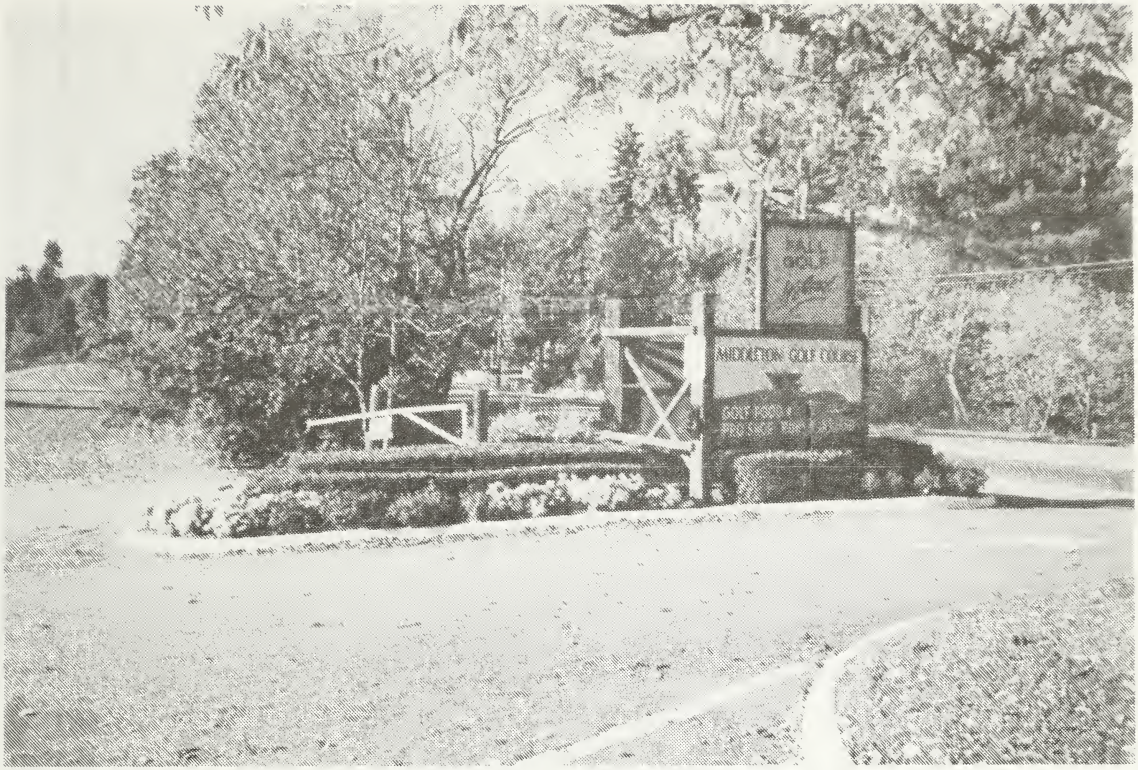
MIDDLETON GOLF COURSE

Middleton Golf Course was planned and constructed in 1965 by Frank and Margaret Brown of Melrose, Massachusetts and Dover, New Hampshire. The course was designed with professional advice and design services of noted golf course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish of Amherst, Massachusetts.

The golf course is an 18 hole par 3 (shorter than regulation length) layout measuring 3,215 yards from tee to green. The course occupies a fifty acre parcel originally leased and later purchased from Peter and Alyce Johnson. The Johnson farmhouse lies between the 8th and 10th fairways.

The Brown family has operated the business continuously as a public, daily fee (nonmembership) golf course. The business is a learning facility, a recreational resource and an ecological asset to the Town of Middleton and surrounding towns. For many years the Masconomet Golf Team has used the course as a no-charge practice facility. During the winters of 1979 to 1981 the course briefly metamorphosed into a cross-country ski center. This activity was suspended as a result of unreliable snow fall and heavy insurance premiums.

While helping to preserve open space, clean air, water and other natural resources, the Middleton Golf Course is pursuing recognition as a Massachusetts Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.



Middleton Golf Course

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

MIDDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Howe-Manning Elementary School was built in 1937 with the help of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It had nine classrooms and an enrollment of 272 students. In September 1951 two new classrooms were added on the right plus a gymnasium/auditorium. We had been in a Middleton-Tewksbury Union. In 1955 it was dissolved and a Superintendent and Principal organization was formed. Through 1957 Juniors and Seniors went to Danvers High School. After 1957 students would have to attend Salem High School. In 1957 Masconomet Regional High School took our elementary school graduates.

In 1937 a new elementary school was named after two beloved teachers: Miss Alice Manning who started as a teacher in 1903, became Principal and retired in 1951 due to illness and Miss Nellie Howe who spent many of her active years teaching and died at the age of 93.

In 1994 the $1.3 million Howe-Manning renovation project was begun. This project included a total retrofit of the interior of the school. The building received a full sprinkler system, new lighting, updated heating system, new ceilings and became fully handicap accessible with the addition of an elevator. Updated color schemes and new flooring completed this "new look" and made the Howe-Manning School a modern and educationally functional building. The Howe-Manning School will serve the Town of Middleton for many years to come.

Fuller Meadow School was built in 1972 to accommodate kindergarten through grade 2. In the fall of 1997 a $5.7 million expansion was completed. This project added 14 classrooms, a new gymnasium and a library media center to the schools existing eleven classrooms. It now accommodates 400 of the districts 670 elementary school pupils. Grades 4 through 6 attend the Howe-Manning School.

Fuller Meadow 1997 Addition

It was a badly needed addition for a district that has seen its elementary school population nearly double in 5 years. As a contrast, from the mid 80's until 1992, Fuller Meadow was not used as a school. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Social Services rented the building for needed space.

MASCONOMET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

In 1959 Middleton Topsfield and Boxford formed the Masconomet Regional High School District. The initial enrollment was 765 students. The Junior High School was added in 1968. A field house and additional classrooms were constructed in 1972.

Presently there are 667 students in the Junior High School and 998 students

in the High School programs. A $48 million expansion is planned for the near future to accommodate projected increases in enrollment and to update obsolete facilities.

NORTH SHORE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

North Shore Regional Vocational School District opened North Shore Technical High School in its Middleton facility in September 1992. The program serves grades 9-12 as well as post graduate students. The District serves students from 16 area communities:

Beverly
Boxford
Danvers
Essex
Gloucester
Hamilton
Lynnfield
Manchester-by-the-Sea
Marblehead
Middleton
Nahant
Rockport
Salem
Swampscott
Topsfield
Wenham

North Shore Technical High School offers 13 vocational programs as well as full academic curriculum in the following areas:

Automotive Technology
Construction Carpentry
Commercial Art
Collision Repair Technology
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts/Baking
Electronic/Computer Technology
Fashion Design
Graphic Arts
Health Technology
Marketing Education
Machine Technology
Masonry

When Students graduate, they receive a high school diploma and a Certificate of Occupational Competency from the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Congregational Church

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The First Congregational Church was founded in 1729 after the General Court of the Massachusetts Colony authorized its creation. (See related information in Brief History of Middleton) This authorization to form the church was conditional on the town of Middleton supporting the ministry, building a suitable meeting house and establishing a school.

State support ended at the time of the Revolutionary War in 1776. The present Meeting House was built in 1859. In 1933 a fellowship hall was built under the building. In 1957 a church school wing was added.

The Middleton Congregational Church is distinguished as establishing Middleton's first Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service, in 1964. That year Reverend Wilcox and Father Schmaruk of Saint Agnes Catholic Church came

together in joint worship. This event brought together for the first time both Protestant and Roman Catholics in the Middleton Congregational Church Meeting Hall, perhaps the first event of this nature in America.

This Thanksgiving observance has been maintained to the present time as well as spreading throughout the rest of the country.

Catholic Church

ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

In December of 1936 the sons and daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Cronin made a gift of the land on which the church stands. The land was given to the Archbishop of Boston. At this time Middleton was part of the Danvers parish. For a long time Middleton parishioners traveled to Danvers to attend Catholic Mass and other religious observances.

Eventually Middleton became a Mission of the Danvers Church and a Catholic priest traveled to Middleton to say Mass in the Town Hall. Children went by bus to Sunday School in Danvers. This arrangement did not last very long before Middleton finally became a separate parish in December 1945.

The boundary lines of the town were also the boundary of the parish. Reverend James E. Welch arrived to take his position as the first pastor. On December 21, 1945 the present parish house and land were purchased. During this time Mass was still being said at the Town Hall. The Saint Agnes Church was built and dedication took place on April 17, 1948, His Excellency, Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing D.D. presiding. Reverend Cushing went on to be elevated to Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston.

In honor of its 50th anniversary the church was recently enhanced under the leadership of Reverend Samuel Lombard. Reverend Lombard was pastor from the summer of 1971 until his retirement in 1997. Reverend Lombard passed away in the summer of 1998.

Reverend Jon Martin was installed as the new pastor in the summer of 1997. Father Jon Martin expects to make further physical improvements to accommodate a burgeoning parish and ever increasing Sunday School attendance.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

In 1961, as a result of expansion and distances to travel, it was deemed advisable to form a Middleton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. The congregation was to accommodate Witnesses from Lawrence and Salem, Massachusetts congregations. Middleton was determined to be the halfway point between Lawrence and Salem. This new congregation would serve the North Reading, Middleton, Danvers, Topsfield and Boxford areas.

At first, the congregation rented space in the old Town Hall on Maple Street. In 1962 a new Kingdom Hall facility was built on Essex Street. The congregation is now well-established and active in Bible education.

FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Flint Public Library has seen many changes since 1952. Although the exterior of the Flint looks much like it did since 1891, a new mahogany front entranceway including brick circular steps and bronze railings were added in 1989. The grounds have been beautified by generous donations of shrubs and gardens.

The interior of the Flint has seen more changes than the exterior. In 1959 the metal circular staircase leading to the balcony was removed. 1967 saw the removal of the gate which separated the stacks from the public. This not only provided more space for the children's collection but was the beginning of our "open door" policy. The 1960s also brought recognition that our late Victorian building not only was becoming too small for the expanding population of Middleton, but offered space that was less functional than required in "present times". In 1980 the basement of the Flint Public Library was converted into a Community Room which would serve as a Children's Room and a Senior Citizen Drop-In Center.

The most noticeable changes at the Flint have taken place in the types of materials and services provided, how materials are circulated and how information is accessed. In 1955 card catalogs for both the adult and children's collection were completed. In 1957 story hours were provided to school age children, grades 1 and up. Checking out books changed from handwritten cards to the use of a charging machine in 1964. By the late 60's we offered audio/visual materials, (filmstrips, 16mm motion pictures, and talking books). 1968 brought the beginning of pre-school story hours and the addition of large-print books. In the late 1980's computers began to arrive at the Flint. For almost 10 years computers were used only for access into the MVLC Consortium and for keeping list of Friends of Flint and overdue books. In December 1995 the Flint's circulation of materials became automated and this was truly the beginning of the computer age at the Flint. A year later, the Flint closed its card catalog and implemented a computerized card catalog. Shortly after the arrival of the computerized card catalog in early 1997, a computer was added in the children's room with CD-ROM capability and offered word processing to the public. At the same time a computer was added upstairs for Internet access and CD-ROM reference use.

With a new director, 1998 finds the Flint in the beginning stages of planning for a 5,000 sq. ft. addition and working hard to keep up with advances in information retrieval.

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion, Augustus P. Gardner, Post 227 is located in a building purchased from the South Middleton Improvement Association. Located on River Street, Post 227 was chartered in 1921. The Post originally met in Memorial Hall but in 1969 moved to its present location in South Middleton upon the acquisition of their own building. In 1989 a new function hall was added to the present location and has been donated on many occasions for the good of community service.

Of some 450 Middleton citizens who served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, 19 were killed. The American Legion has grown to over 250 members, 60 Ladies Auxiliary members and 40 Sons of American Legion members.

The Middleton Post has dedicated itself to contribution and sponsorship of programs for children and youth, senior citizens services, scholarships for college, Boy Scouts, Boys State and many other community service projects.

ARTS COUNCIL AND ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Arts Council is a group of residents appointed by the Selectmen. It presents public programs that promote the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. It controls grants from and recommendations to the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Council also has created a volunteer group known as the Middleton Arts Association(MAA) that offers a variety of monthly programs, as well as the annual judged art show and the Pumpkin Festival with hayrides and homecoming. It also sponsors the Tri-Town Literary Magazine and the Tri-Town Performance School Group.

When the need for increased membership was recognized, members of the Art Council moved to create a group interested in the arts with membership being voluntary. Establishing a goal "to stimulate, foster, and encourage interest in the various fields of the arts and crafts", the Middleton Arts Association set forth to plan appealing programs to attract members.

The MAA now offers a variety of programs encompassing various areas of the arts, mingled with wit, experience and knowledge. The Association meets once a month during its season, with a special guest sharing his or her talents, a trip or other programs. Most of the events are open to the public, which is encouraged to attend.

GARDEN CLUB

The Middleton Garden Club was formed in 1962 to stimulate the love of gardening, encourage civic planting, further interest in floral design, and aid the protection of native trees and plants. It provides seasonal plantings for the Flint Library grounds, the Old Town Hall, Memorial Hall, and the Fire and Police stations.

It also designed and installed the award-winning Children's Garden behind Memorial Hall. The Junior Garden Club helps with seasonal planting at the Senior Center and the Howe-Manning School.

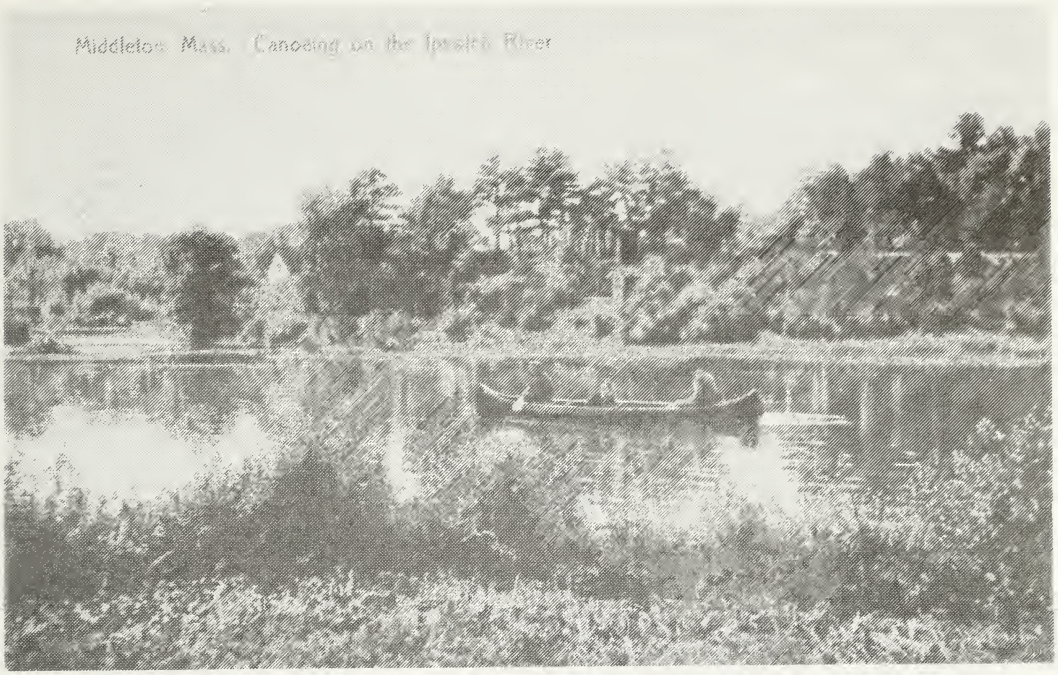
Inclusive among the appealing programs offered by the Middleton Garden Club are craft projects of wreath making and flower arranging. Landscaping and tree care coupled with environmental programs are also an important part of Garden Club interests.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State enabling legislation for the local Historical Commission, Charter 40-80, was passed in 1963. The Middleton Charter Chapter 6, section 3, directs the Selectmen to appoint five citizens to the Middleton Historical Commission. The first meeting was held on October 14, 1976.

The Commission is responsible for the identification, evaluation, and protection of all historical, archeological and cultural resources. They have identified and documented the buildings, cemeteries and sites of historical significance in Middleton. Four buildings are on the "National Register of Historic Places". Wooden plaques date and identify over 30 other historic buildings and sites.

There is a stone and brass memorial to Middleton Minutemen dedicated in 1997. The Commission cooperates with other town boards and societies to maintain the historical culture of Middleton.



Canoeing on the Ipswich

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

At the turn of the century, Middleton was viewed as a summer resort by people from cities such as Lynn, Salem and Boston. They came to Middleton to enjoy the country air and Middleton Pond which is now a reservoir supplying water to Middleton and Danvers. Lake Street which looks out over the water was then lined with summer cottages. These are now year-round homes.

Visitors also came to stay at a hotel called Middleton Arms by the day or by the week. It had a large veranda all around and rocking chairs. This hotel changed hands and changed names many times over the years and at present is known as the popular restaurant "Angelica's". The Ipswich River was also a major recreational attraction of early Middleton. On weekends the Ipswich was swarming with canoes. Along its banks were several boathouses (all gone now) where canoes could be rented.

Off Kenney Road on the Ipswich River there was an area called "King's Pool", where families would gather on a summer's day to enjoy a picnic and a swim. Middleton residents can still swim in the Ipswich River at Thunder Bridge on East Street.

In the 1920's that whole area around Kenney Road was a summer resort area. The roads named Highland, Oak and Kenney were the location of many summer cottages and cabins, some of which are still standing today as year-round residences. Haswell Park was yet another recreational spot that was popular in those by-gone days. Band concerts were held there in a gazebo which was reached via a dirt road which began where present day Haswell Park Road begins. This whole area has been developed and today there are no signs of the rustic good times that once took place there. After World War II, in the 1950's and 1960's, Middleton had a drive-in movie theater on Route 114 across from the end of River Street. It was a great source of entertainment for young couples with growing families because it was a convenient and economical way to get a night out. Today at that location there is a busy mall.

Middleton in the 1990's has for recreation a Fish and Game Club, an eighteen hole par 3 golf course, a miniature golf course, and a driving range, all of which are located on its main thoroughfare Route 114. A second golf driving range is located on Lonergan Road.

Old Town Hall

COUNCIL ON AGING

Middleton's Council On Aging serves the needs of its Seniors in many ways. There are eleven members, each of whom is appointed for three years. They meet once a month at the Senior Center on 33 Maple Street in what was the old Town Hall. Its beginnings go back to 1970 when it served hot lunches three times a week to Seniors at the Fuller Meadow School. In 1978 the Council became part of the North Shore Elder Services, Inc. which provides essential and supportive services to our older residents and develops plans and programs to help them.

The Council on Aging had been meeting in the Hall at Orchard Circle. In 1980 the Flint Public Library converted its dirt-floor basement into a combination Community Center and Children's Room. For ten years, from 1980 to 1990, the Council On Aging used this space to serve elders hot lunches three times a week, for knitting classes and other activities.

In 1990 the Town of Middleton remodeled the Old Town Hall on Maple Street which was lying empty and unused. It was made suitable to the needs of the elderly. It is a drop-in center where people can gather for companionship.

The Council On Aging provides transportation for shopping and for medical appointments. It arranges day-trips, entertainment, talks on health issues and preventative shots. Every year the Elders are treated to a Christmas Party (now called the January Thaw) sponsored by the Council with the help of the Board of Trade. In every way that it can, the Council On Aging dedicates itself to watching out for the interests of all Middleton's Senior Citizens.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Middleton Historical Society was founded in 1954 by Lura Woodside Watkins and Bertha Woodward. The first meeting was held on May of that year with 33 members attending. The first officers of the Historical Society were:

President, Lura Woodside Watkins
Vice-President , Roger F. Clapp
Recording Secretary, Carolyn Woodward
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Albert C. Murray
Treasurer, Henry Sawyer
Custodians, Sarah Carleton and Jean McSheehy

The Middleton Historical Society was formed to:

1. Encourage increased interest in the history of Middleton and its environs.
2. Locate, restore, protect and mark historic sites in the area.
3. Collect and preserve historical items of the Middleton area.
4. Establish a museum to make such items available to the public for educational and cultural purposes.

The Society immediately began to receive gifts of antique items, and the collection of historical artifacts of the Middleton area grew throughout the years. By May of 1963, about 600 items and 1,000 photographs and documents had been acquired. These were stored in Mrs. Watkins' home and at Flint Library. The need for a museum to house these valuable historical items became increasingly urgent.

A Museum Committee was appointed, and a building fund was established. Auctions, flea markets, suppers, lectures and tours of old homes were conducted each year to raise funds for a new museum. By 1973, about $18,000 had been collected and discussion of building the present museum began in earnest. The Society was incorporated, and the present site was purchased from Mrs. Ruth Johnson in 1974.

The foundation was started in early 1976, and the cornerstone was laid in September of that year. Mr. Ray Farnsworth headed the construction project. He was helped by many volunteers, including town officials, religious leaders, members of the Society and others. Fund raising efforts continued along with the construction work.

Flea markets, country dances, and other fund raising events were held. A group of members got together and cut and sanded small wooden blocks depicting a

sketch by John Deering of the proposed museum which were sold as "building blocks". A door-to-door drive in 1976 raised over $2,000 in contributions from the people of Middleton. The Sixth Grade students of the Howe-Manning School presented a jar full of coins. Generous gifts were received from many others.

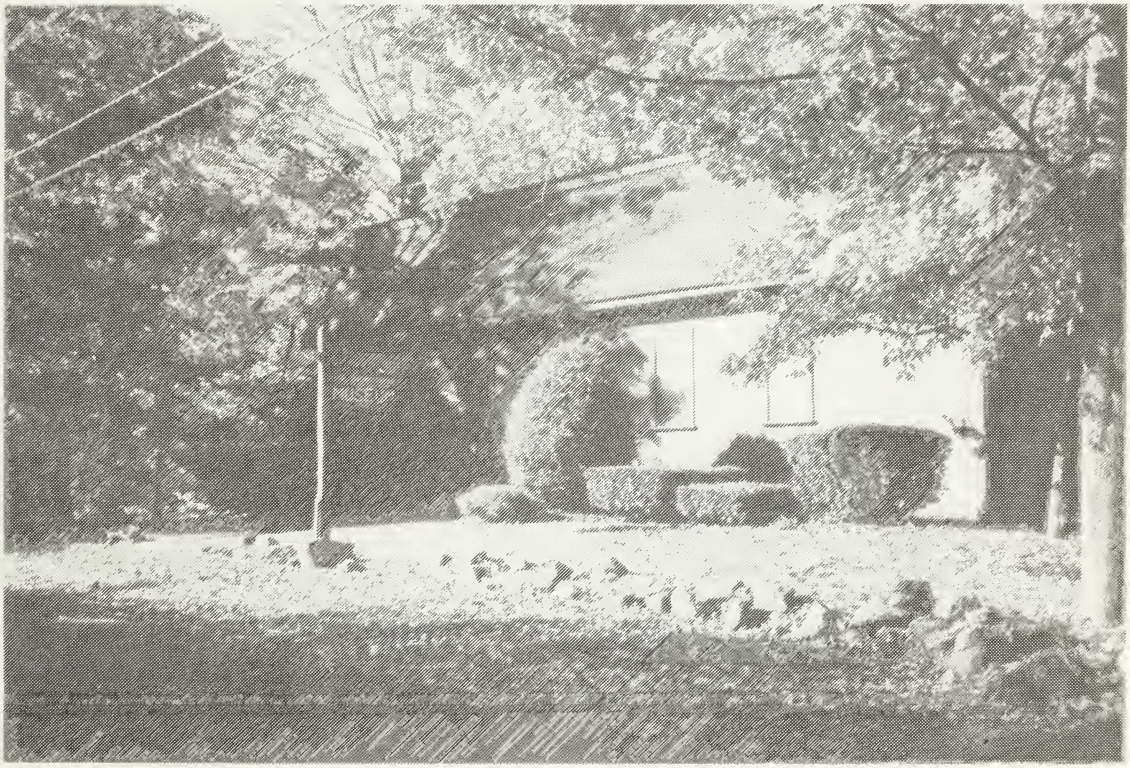
The Society met for the first time in the new museum in May of 1977. A formal dedication was held in June of 1978 with Mrs. Watkins, her son Malcolm (an official of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC) and other State and local dignitaries in attendance.

Where We Are Now -

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month from September through May. During these meetings, a variety of educational and entertaining programs are presented and refreshments are served.

Other special meetings and events are held throughout the year. In addition, the Society has an active Educational Committee, established in 1979, which introduces Middleton's school children to the Lura Woodside Watkins Museum and acquaints them with the history of the Middleton area. This educational program is a very valuable part of the Society's activities. Society membership is open to all, including residents outside of Middleton.

LANDMARKS



Lura Woodside Watkins Museum

MIDDLETON SQUARE

Middleton Square has gone through many changes as shown in a 1913 postcard view compared to a 1998 photo.

The Estey Tavern had a large green area in front with a very large oak tree which sheltered the concert bands and townspeople who attended summer concerts. Overhead was clustered by a confusion of electric wires which powered the trolley which ran between Lawrence and Salem. At the end of Central Street was a turn-around for the steam engines of the Essex Railroad.

The library is the only building which remains constant. The fire station is in the same spot, but does not resemble the original. Herbie Richardson's store was next to the Tavern. Various stores came and went during the next 30 years. They included the A & P, Jack and Beat Frost's Hardware Store, Ed Leary's Insurance, Mike's Barber Shop and the Post Office. Giles' Drug Store, later Lindley's Drug Store, was in the central square. The building which now houses a restaurant and the antique store was originally a large barn, which became Martin's Drug Store. Ironically, it is now home to another antique store again. Purdy's Rest Home, a forerunner of today's nursing home, was located where the parking lot is on the right hand of North Main Street at the foot of the hill. Purdy's sold caskets although they didn't officiate at funerals. Until 1937, the site where the Howe-Manning School now stands was the locale of a large barn. George Stahler's Garage filled the intersection of Maple Street and Route 114.

View of Square showing Old Tavern, Middleton, Mass.

Middleton Square -1913

Middleton Square -1998

BRIDGES OF MIDDLETON

The Ipswich River and other good sized brooks coursed throughout the Town, requiring some way of crossing them. The major bridge was the "Log Bridge" (now discontinued) built about 1688.

The bridge on Maple Street was called the Maple Street Bridge and is referred to in a 1707 record, but may have been used before that.

The bridge on Peabody Street was built by the Symonds family for their own use, later the town let them work off their taxes by maintaining the bridge(1768).

The bridge on East Street is referred to as Averell's Bridge, but the common name for it is "Thunder Bridge" because of the loud rumbling sound whenever a vehicle crossed over its heavy planks. Many people in that area can recall very vividly that distinct sound. The state rebuilt the bridge in the 70's because of slippage of the foundation. The town swimming hole is located beside the bridge.

Thunder Bridge

There is a small bridge on Liberty Street called Nichols Bridge. The bridge was in use by 1713 for Nichols mill. Two small bridges cross under Mill Street by the iron works dam. "Munday Bridge" is on North Liberty Street, constructed by Thomas Fuller in 1667.

ESSEX COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM

Essex County Tuberculosis Sanatorium was started in 1928. The nearest other sanatorium was in Hebron, Maine. For the first two decades it was filled to its capacity of 350 young adults. The disease was rampant after WWI through the 1940's.

Essex County Tuberculosis Sanatorium

The sanatorium was located adjacent to the Danvers State Mental Institution. Both institutions were provided with fresh vegetables and fruits grown by workers in the adjacent County Farm.

Fresh air, rest and plenty of good food was the initial cure. Eventually better medication was developed. The present Mrs. Josephine Leary of Middleton came as a new graduate from Kentucky and set up the first tuberculosis bacteria laboratory at the Sanatorium in 1930.

The last few years it was open the Sanatorium helped more chronic disease patients than tuberculosis patients. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, as TB cases lessened the buildings deteriorated until they were condemned.

The last TB patients were moved to the Middlesex County Hospital in Waltham in July of 1964.

Previously the disease was so contagious that almost everyone had to take a TB tine test or a patch test as a matter of course, especially for employment purposes and particularly if the occupation dealt with the public.

Some of the outstanding officials were Dr. Pettingill, Superintendent of the Hospital, Miss Roderick, Superintendent of Nurses and Evelyn Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Nurses.

MEMORIAL HALL

Memorial Hall at 12 South Main Street now holds the Town Offices. It was built in 1860 as a school and was known as Centre School. It had two entrances, one for boys and one for girls. The two-story ell at the far right was added on in 1920. Before this school was built Middleton had four District Schools located in various parts of town. After 1860, as the number of school children grew, the North and East Schools were used only for primary grades, while higher grades went to the Centre School. There were almost no pupils over 15 years of age.

In 1936 when the Howe-Manning was built under the WPA it eliminated the need for the Centre School. The older building became Memorial Hall and today houses the Town Offices including: Town Manager, Town Accountant, Town Clerk, Assessor and Tax Collector.

Memorial Hall

MILITARY MONUMENTS

Located in front of a very high flagpole facing into Middleton center are a set of 4 granite monuments placed to remind all of us of the sacrifices of some of our townspeople in past wars. Shortly after World War I and World War II the first two Monuments were dedicated.

Preparation for the Vietnam War and the Korean War Memorials were started on in 1980 and dedication took place on November 11, 1981. The chief speaker for the day was General George Patten, Jr. who addressed a goodly crowd. Jack Thornton, now deceased, was American Legion Post Commander.

Traditionally on Memorial Day our people gather before the monuments, while our military observes a time-honored ritual of invocation, military salute and "Taps". A parade to the Oakdale Cemetery follows, where school children and prominent townspeople give orations. Veterans Day is observed annually at these monuments in the square.

Military Monuments

THE MUZICHUK BLOCK

The building on the northwest corner of the Center, left of the Library and Fire Station, is known today as the Muzichuk Block. The building has a varied and interesting past. In the 1850's it was a large wooden frame building owned by F.P. Merriam & Co., and was the distribution site of kits of shoemaking supplies.

Making shoes at home especially during long winter evenings was a source of cash revenue for women and men and affected community life in the 1800's. By 1900 the era of making shoes at home was past. From pictures we gather the building has been much expanded in the early decades of this century.

The Merritt Manufacturing Company owned half the building. In 1901 Frank A. Poor was located there in the business of manufacturing light bulbs. Poor bought Merritt out and moved the light bulb business to Danvers. In 1959 this business was purchased by GTE Sylvania. Thus, the present national corporation was started in Middleton, Massachusetts.

Frank C. Damon, part owner of the Salem Evening News, made his headquarters in this building in 1928, from which he wrote many articles on Middleton's past.

Various physical changes took place over the years and by 1950 the additions to the original building had been removed. Several small businesses had been in place, changing over the years: a drug store was operated first by Wayne Giles, then by John Lindley and subsequently by James and Ruth Martin. Granville Demerritt had a market business, Michael Lavorgna operated a barber shop there for many years, to name only a few.

In 1960 John Muzichuk purchased the property and renovated it appropriate to the times. He put in place an attractive red-brick facade over the old wooden frame. A second floor for small office space was made available. The attractive, red-brick exterior holds within itself a community's past.

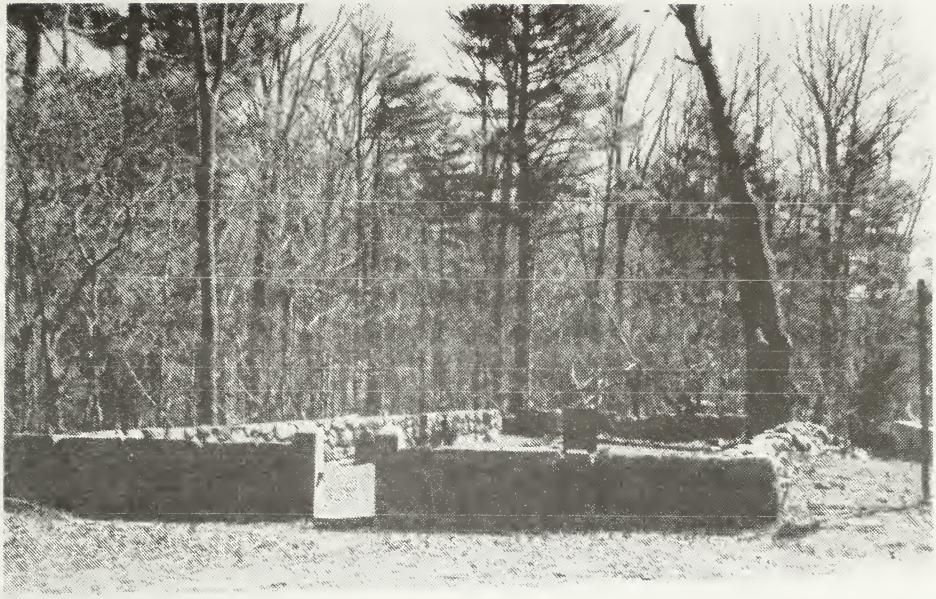
OAKDALE AND OTHER CEMETERIES

The Oakdale Cemetery is still the beautiful serene resting place it has been since 1861. An average of forty burials take place each year at Oakdale Cemetery. New sections are opened up as required. Pruning, fertilizing shrubbery, tree trimming, and grass mowing occur on a regular basis. A new much-needed garage was erected at the cemetery's entrance in 1968 at a cost of $3,000. New Victorian-style, cast aluminum avenue signs were installed in 1993.

Every year Memorial Day is observed with dignity as our parade marches to the cemetery, orations are given by dignitaries and reverends; and two students from the elementary school give recitations. From two directions the melancholy notes of "Taps" are sounded, the military gives a loud salute and we pay respects to our dead.

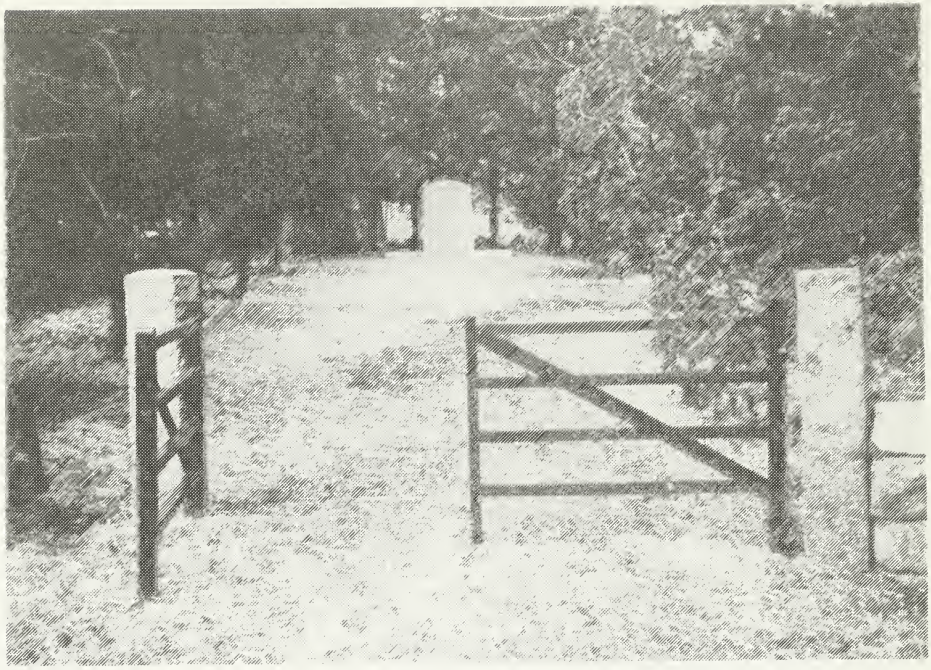
There are sixteen other known cemeteries in Middleton; pictures of a few others are shown here.

Oakdale Cemetery



Elias Smith Cemetery

Old Fuller Burying Ground



Peabody Family Cemetery

Merriam Cemetery

EVENTS

THE BICENTENNIAL PARADE
1928

The July 4th, 1928 Bicentennial Parade was the biggest celebration in the Town of Middleton to that date. It was organized by the Selectmen and Reverend Chandler with the help of the Knights of St. Paul from the Congregational Church. Two major bands played: the Ipswich Marching Band and the Redmen's Band. The Redmen and the Grange representing the active fraternal organizations each entered a large float. Al Sheldon's cattle truck plus a wagon pulled by a truck were used to accommodate the Redmen's replica of the Tavern and the Grange's castle float. The castle was so high that one man had to ride on the cab of the truck and lift tree branches out of the way. The parade formed on Pleasant Street, marched through the Square, down Maple Street to the Sanatorium and returned.

A large bonfire was located on Will's Hill, using ties from the recently defunct trolley system. A heavy tractor was used to haul the ties from Lake Street to the top of the hill. It was estimated to be over 40 feet in height. Once lighted, it burned for three days. There was a dance floor erected in the park, band concerts by the Salem Band and Redmen's Band. In addition there were ball games between the local towns, topped off by supper in the Town Hall. It truly was the largest affair in Middleton until the 250th Celebration in 1978.

250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
1978

The season started with a ball on May 16, 1978 at Joe Binette's Chalet (formerly Middleton Arms, now Angelica's); the ball was sold out. A great dance band played and a jitterbug contest was held. Governor Mike Dukakis and his wife Kitty entered the contest, but they were bested by Charles Clinch III and his wife Janet.

From July 1st to July 4th many special events took place. On Saturday July 1st there was a baseball game, children's parade and fireworks. There was a carnival in the park behind the school with midway, band concerts, pony rides and spirited competition between the various fire departments to see who could knock the other team from the field by way of fire hoses.

On Tuesday the Fourth of July, the park behind Howe-Manning School was the location of one of the biggest bonfires ever built in the town. The pile was made of wooden pallets and was constructed by Peter Rubchinuk and his family.

On September 24, 1978 a parade (the largest ever) was held with over 50 units of fire trucks, several marching bands, many floats, military units, colonial squads, minutemen, old cannons, equestrian groups, veterans, fraternal groups, Boy and Girl Scouts and antique vehicles. Half the townspeople joined the ranks; the other half watched them along with an estimated 10,000 spectators. The parade formed on the grounds of the Drive-In Theatre. It's route from there was past Joe Binette's to the Square, down Maple Street to Howe's Station and back. Films of the 1928 parade and the 1978 parade are on file at the Flint Public Library.

ANNUAL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

The idea of a Jack-O-Lantern Row was presented by Geri Shipley in 1984 to the eight member Middleton Arts Council. Enthusiastically endorsed, it became a reality in October of 1985.

The children of Middleton carve over 300 donated pumpkins annually for the candle-lit "Pumpkin Row". The Boy Scouts are in charge of displaying the jack-o-lanterns on Maple Street.

Richardson Farms provides hayrides to everyone who attends this event. Witches and Wizards narrate the hay rides through the streets, dramatically haunted by members of the Middleton Arts Association. Food, balloons and music are offered by local merchants to all of the thousands who attend .

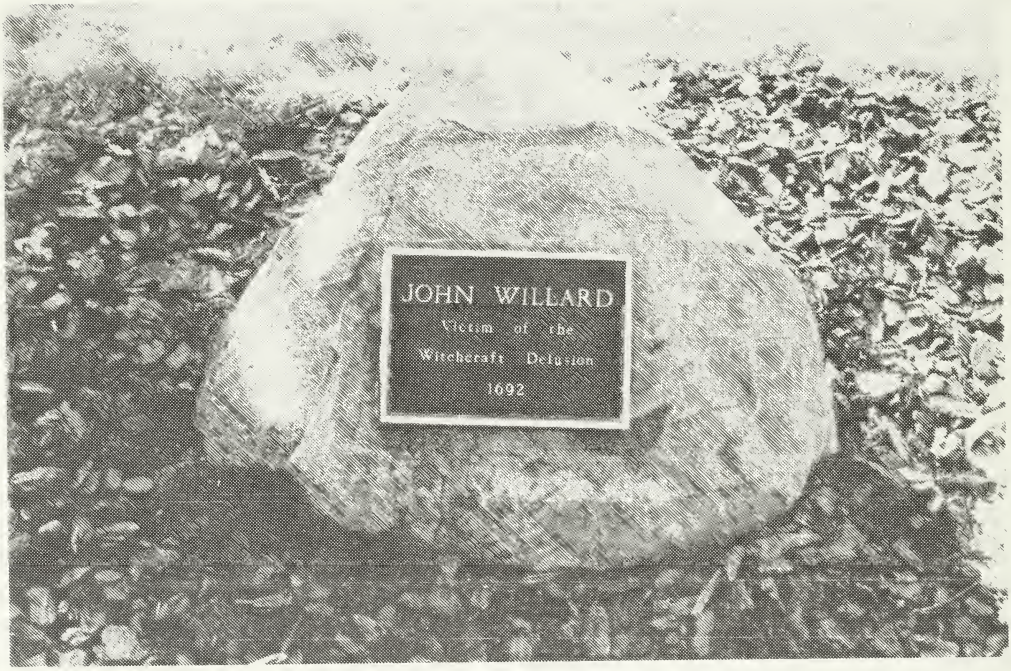
WITCHCRAFT HYSTERIA MEMORIAL

On September 13, 1992 more than eighty people gathered at the Lura Woodside Watkins Museum to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the hanging of John Willard as part of the Witchcraft Hysteria in 1692.

Willard had resided in what is now Middleton and was a grandson-in-law of Bray Wilkins, our first settler. He was a constable whose job was to serve warrants on people accused of witchcraft and take them into custody. When it became known his sympathies were with the accused, he was soon complained against himself. With a deluge of accusations and tempest of indignation beating upon him he had but little chance and was convicted. He was hanged on August 19, 1692 and his body believed buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Rowley Village Cemetery.

The ceremony was held on the Museum grounds. During the memorial service Alan Wilkins of Middleton, one of the descendants, removed the black pall that covered the new stone memorial. The stone monument with bronze plaque was sponsored by Middleton Historical Society.

A social followed which allowed people to meet the Willard-Wilkins descendants and for them to meet each other.



Witchcraft Hysteria Memorial

DEDICATION OF MINUTEMAN MEMORIAL

On Essex Street in Middleton at the roadside in front of the Tragert home, there is a large rock to which is attached a plaque listing the names of the eight Middleton men who took part in the beginning of the War for Independence on April 19, 1775.

The eight Minutemen were:

Major Archelaus Fuller
Captain Benjamin Gardner
Joseph Nichols
Sargent Benjamin Peabody
Corporal Elijah Wilkins
Corporal Aquilla Wilkins
Private Enos Wilkins
Private Israel Curtis

On that day when these men heard that the British had attacked at Concord, they gathered at this site to begin a march to intercept the British. Their route took them through Lynn, Malden, Medford and into Somerville. They arrived too late to fight the British but stayed in Somerville at Winter Hill for two days sealing it off until relief forces arrived.

The Minuteman Memorial at this historic site was created by the Middleton Historic Commission. On November 11, 1997 it was dedicated in a ceremony led by Chairman Robert Fox.

Minuteman Memorial

FOLK TALES

Two Folk tales of Middleton from Hurd's
History of Essex County:

The killing of those volunteer farmers, the 19th of April 1775, by the order of the British commander, produced a thrilling effect all over the Unites States. As the news reached this town, old Tom Fuller with his characteristic energy and bold spirit started on his old white horse for the scene of action; he overtook the army on the retreat, and with his gun blazed away at their rear; returning a short distance he was furnished with a fresh loaded gun, then, again, putting spurs to his horse would overtake the fast retreating army, and at each shot would produce a startling effect in their ranks. They called him "Death Upon The White Horse". But the long ride and the chafing he received in such exhibitions, when cooled off caused such soreness that he walked home, and a boy from Danvers, who was there by the name of Daniel Brown, was induced to take the horse home...

Mr. Fuller when a young man was at work on his land, went into a tavern and called for a drink of cider. Mrs. Smith said "You rock the cradle while I draw the cider." When she returned Fuller asked for the gift of the child; this request was granted, provided he would wait till she was eighteen years old. True to his promise he appeared at the expiration of the time, and took her to Middleton and exhibited her before his forty negroes which he owned, little and great, and in all conditions, and said "You are mistress of them all."

LIST OF 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY HOUSES IN MIDDLETON

For specific details please refer to *Middleton, Massachusetts, A Cultural History*, 1970 by Lura Woodside Watkins, published by Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts.

1684	Thomas Fuller Jr.	Old South Main St.
1698	Bray Wilkins Farmhouse	End of Mill St.
1705	Deac. Edward Putnam House	Gregory St.
1710	Bayley-Bradstreet House	22 Maple St.
1714	Jacob Fuller House	100 So.Main St. Opp. Golf Course
1714	Joseph Fuller	161 Essex Street
1714	Col. Benjamin Peabody House	54 East Street
1715	Timothy Perkins House	Off Essex St. near Creighton Pond
1733	Old Stiles Homestead	238 Essex St.
Pre1740	Peabody-Wilkins House	East St., at Locust St.
1746	Flint Family House	Cor. of Boston &River St.
1750	Capt. Andrew Fuller House	King St. off Maple St.
1753	Philip Knight House	20 East St.
1753	Estey Tavern	Middleton Center
1759	Daniel Fuller House	Cor. So.Main St. & Meadow Dr.
1760	Nathaniel Peabody House	44 Peabody St.
1767	Jacob Fuller 3rd House	75 So. Main St.
1770	Andrew Perkins House	Cor. Maple St. & Kenney Rd.
1791	Symonds Homestead	Thomas Rd. off Peabody St.

Bray Wilkins House-1698

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Explanation of initials in reference column:	
EI	*Essex Institute*
LWW	*Lura Woodside Watkins*
MHS	*Middleton Historical Society*
FPL	*Flint Public Library*

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